

THOMASSET
U.S. App. 10591116

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the attached replacement sheet, which merely adds the phrase "Prior Art" to Figure 15, as requested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

With the foregoing amendments, claims 1-8 are pending in the application.

Favorable consideration is requested.

At the outset, applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-8. As noted below, the other amended claims also contain allowable subject matter.

The claims have been amended to place them in more conventional US patent claim format and, as noted below, in line with the Examiner's helpful comments. No new matter has been added.

One drawing has been amended as requested by the Examiner, by including a "Prior Art" legend. No new matter has been added. Applicants submit that the drawing amendment obviates the drawing objection.

The Abstract has been amended as requested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

In response to the obviousness-type double patenting rejections, and without agreeing with the rejections, applicants submit herewith two Terminal Disclaimers that obviate the rejections.

In response to the claim 3 objection and claim 2 rejection under Section 112, claims 1-3 have been amended in line with the helpful suggestions of the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

The following prior art rejections have been lodged against several claims:

- Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious over Kawaguchi (JP 02098415).

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- Claim 3 stands rejected as allegedly being obvious over Kawaguchi in view of Akiyama (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0182351).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1. A review of claim 1 confirms patentability.

The primary reference, Kawaguchi, does not disclose or suggest the invention of claim

1. As correctly stated in the International Preliminary Report on Patentability (which was submitted with an IDS on February 2, 2007), the Kawaguchi reference does not disclose or suggest the particular claimed invention, i.e.,

- a first resin representing at least 80% of the volume of the object,
- a second resin forming at least two fine functional layers,
- the functional layers imprisoned separately in the first resin,
- the functional layers are distributed in separate parts of the object,
- the functional layers form bodies of revolution centered on the axis of symmetry of the object, and
- the two functional layers are placed partially one on top of the other (superposed) in a direction perpendicular to the wall.

This particular combination of critical features is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Kawaguchi or the secondary references. The claimed invention enhances the barrier properties of the multilayer object. The claimed invention as well as its objective are not disclosed, suggested or even appreciated by Kawaguchi or any of the secondary

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references. Thus, the cited art does not render obvious the claimed invention. For at least these reasons, applicants request the withdrawal of the prior art rejections.

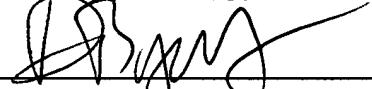
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and the attached documents, applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, the undersigned may be contacted at 703-816-4009.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Duane M. Byers

Reg. No. 33,363

DMB:Imy

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100